From: Morning Consult
To: lmartin@bakersfieldpd.us
Subject: Morning Consult Tech: Week in Review & What"s Ahead
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By Sam Sabin

Week in Review

Antitrust regulation

- Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Elizabeth Warren (Mass.) argued in a letter that Justice Department antitrust head Makan Delrahim should recuse himself from any possible investigations into Google or Apple Inc. Warren, who sent the letter to Delrahim himself and a Justice Department ethics official, contends that Delrahim's past work with the major tech firms, including his lobbying work for Google's acquisition of DoubleClick in 2007,

would create the appearance of a conflict of interest.

- Google fired roughly half a dozen of its largest lobbying firms - in addition to shaking up its internal policy team's organization and adjusting to the loss of two senior officials - as a part of an overhaul of its lobbying efforts as Washington's interest in tech industry antitrust regulation grows, according to people familiar with the company's strategy. The moves are seen as a part of a restructuring effort by Google policy chief Karan Bhatia, the people said, with longtime Republican strategist Charlie Black and Off Hill Strategies LLC among the groups no longer lobbying for the major tech company.

Telecommunications and wireless

- Judge Victor Marrero of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York set a June 21 pre-trial hearing date regarding a suit from a coalition of state attorneys general seeking to halt the T-Mobile US Inc. and Sprint Corp. merger. Nine states and the District of Columbia filed a lawsuit Tuesday to stop the $26 billion deal, arguing that it would be harmful to consumers, as the merger awaits approval from Justice Department officials.

- Dish Network Corp., Charter Communications Inc. and Altice USA Inc. are on a shortlist of bidders favored by the Department of Justice to purchase the assets T-Mobile and Sprint are planning to sell to get approval for their proposed merger, according to people familiar with the matter. T-Mobile and Sprint have already agreed to sell prepaid wireless brand Boost to win over Federal Communications Commission regulators, and they have discussed selling another prepaid brand and some spectrum to win over Justice Department officials.

- FCC Chairman Ajit Pai said during a Senate Commerce Committee oversight hearing that the agency will vote on a proposal at its August meeting that would "result in more granular and more accurate broadband maps." Pai said his proposal will require broadband providers to report where they currently offer service, as opposed to the current policy where providers say where they could provide service - which has been criticized for overestimating how many people have access to high-speed internet.

- House Energy and Commerce Chairman Frank Pallone (D-N.J.) said during a USTelecom event that his committee is "pretty close" to creating a

bipartisan bill addressing how to combat illegal robocalls and that he hopes to introduce draft legislation this week. The draft, which Pallone said will go beyond the language in his own Stopping Bad Robocalls Act, would come nearly a month after the Senate passed its own anti-robocall measure, the TRACED Act, in a 97-1 vote.

Privacy and cybersecurity

- The U.S. Customs and Border Protection said a database used as a part of the agency's facial-recognition program had been accessed in a data breach through one of its subcontractors' networks. It's unclear how many images were compromised and how many people have been affected.

- Discussions for crafting a comprehensive federal privacy bill among the six-member Senate working group have effectively stalled over differences about how strict the legislation should be, according to people close to the process, with members especially struggling to determine if individual citizens should have the right to sue companies for data breaches. Those involved in the negotiations had hoped to release a draft bill months ago, sources said.

- While collecting information for the Federal Trade Commission's continuing investigation into privacy abuses, Facebook Inc. discovered emails that appear to tie Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg to questionable privacy practices at the company, according to people familiar with the matter. The emails, which the sources described but did not provide for review, suggest Zuckerberg and senior executives did not prioritize complying with the 2012 FTC consent decree related to privacy, the people said.

- A group of activist groups and telecommunications experts filed a complaint with the FCC regarding the sale of customers' real-time location data to third parties without informed consent by AT&T Inc., T-Mobile, Sprint and Verizon Communications Inc. New America's Open Technology Institute, Free Press and the Georgetown Law Center on Privacy and Technology filed the complaint together, saying that the "carriers' actions have threatened public safety," with reports signaling that the location data ended up in the hands of bad actors.

U.S.-China tech relations

- Huawei Technologies Co. argued in an ex parte filing to the FCC that the

agency's proposed ban on federal subsidies to telecommunications companies reliant on the Chinese firm's equipment could disproportionately hurt rural providers. In the filing, Huawei said it has reached out to each of the agency's commissioners to "directly address their concerns," but all declined.

- Google has been moving production of some of its Nest smart thermostats devices and server hardware away from China to Taiwan and Malaysia in an effort to avoid any financial repercussions from the ongoing trade war between the United States and China, according to people familiar with the matter. The move follows a similar one from Apple partner Foxconn Technology Group, which said that it has enough manufacturing capacity outside of China to make iPhones in a different location if needed.

Social media

- Instagram said it would treat a manipulated video of Zuckerberg in "the same way" the platform would "treat all misinformation," noting that it will only filter it out if its third-party fact-checkers flag the content as false. In the video, created by artists Bill Posters and Daniel Howe working with the advertising company Canny, Zuckerberg's likeness was edited to make it appear as if he is giving a speech about his company's power during a news broadcast; however, the content is actually a distorted version of a September 2017 address from Zuckerberg about Russian election interference on Facebook's platforms.

- Visa Inc., Mastercard Inc., PayPal Holdings Inc. and Uber Technologies Inc. are among more than a dozen companies that have signed up to back Facebook's new cryptocurrency, Libra, which is expected to be unveiled next week and launch in 2020, according to people familiar with the matter. While talks with the companies are still ongoing and sign-ups could change, each firm will invest around $10 million to be a part of a consortium that will govern the digital token, the sources said.

- Twitter Inc. released new data detailing how thousands of accounts are connected to foreign governments, including the removal of 4,779 accounts tied to Iran and four tied to Russia's Internet Research Agency. The company said it is now collecting all such information in an archive that can be a resource to researchers, as well as working with governments, law enforcement and others in the tech industry to identify similar accounts.

What's Ahead

- The House and Senate are in session.
- The American Antitrust Institute will host its 20th annual policy conference on Thursday, which will feature speakers from the Department of Justice and the FTC.
- The FCC consumer outreach team will tour Minnesota and Wisconsin from June 24-28 to meet with community leaders and groups about telecommunications issues.
- The FCC's next open commission meeting will be July 10. Agenda items have not been announced yet.

Events Calendar (All Times Local)

06/14/2019

RightsCon

06/17/2019

Forbes' 2019 Women's Summit, feat. speakers from NASA, WeWork and Backstage Capital	
FCC webinar on network resiliency for small and rural communications providers	11:00 am
Brookings Institutions' release of a report on China's payment system	2:00 pm
The Washington Post's Free to State summit with the Knight	4:00 pm

Foundation

06/18/2019

Forbes' 2019 Women's Summit, feat. speakers from NASA, WeWork and Backstage Capital	
The Information's analysis call on Facebook's cryptocurrency plans	10:00 am
Senate Commerce's security subcommittee hearing on drone security	2:30 pm

06/19/2019

House Ways & Means Committee's hearing on the 2019 trade policy agenda, including negotiations with China	9:30 am
Senate Finance Committee's hearing on the president's trade policy agenda and the United States-Mexico-Canada agreement	10:15 am
SHLB Coalition's webinar discussion scoring the broadband proposals in Congress, feat. Public Knowledge and NCTA	1:00 pm
Broadband USA's June webinar on building smart cities and communities at a regional level	2:00 pm

06/20/2019

American Antitrust Institute's 20th annual policy conference	8:30 am
American Enterprise Institute's conversation with Rep. Stivers on patent reform in 2019	8:30 am
House Small Business Committee's hearing on the importance of accurate Census data	10:00 am
George Washington University's Trade and Data Governance Hub's panel discussion on digital trade, feat. Sen. Ron Wyden	12:00 pm

06/21/2019

FCC Technology Advisory Council meeting	10:00 am

View full calendar

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Morning Consult surveys more than 2,000 consumers in China every week to provide brands with the data intelligence needed to track how geo-political conflict is affecting their brand and their business.

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Morning Consult Tech Top Reads

1) Google Axes Lobbyists Amid Growing Government Scrutiny
Brody Mullins and Ted Mann, The Wall Street Journal

2) CBP says traveler photos and license plate images stolen in data breach
Zack Whittaker, TechCrunch

3) Senate talks on US data privacy law grind to a halt
Kiran Stacey, Financial Times

4) Training a single AI model can emit as much carbon as five cars in their lifetimes
Karen Hao, MIT Technology Review

5) Facebook Worries Emails Could Show Zuckerberg Knew of Questionable Privacy Practices
John D. McKinnon et al., The Wall Street Journal

6) Where all the robocalls are coming from
Sara Fischer, Axios

7) Acting U.S. Budget Chief Seeks Reprieve on Huawei Ban
Dan Strumpf, The Wall Street Journal

8) Facebook's New Cryptocurrency, Libra, Gets Big Backers
AnnaMaria Andriotis et al., The Wall Street Journal

9) Dish, Charter and Altice Eye T-Mobile and Sprint Assets
Nabila Ahmed, Bloomberg

10) Apple CEO Tim Cook Visits White House to Discuss Job Training
Jennifer Jacobs and David McLaughlin, Bloomberg

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